

Mayor's Messages

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Six Degrees of Separation

Well, it's not quite the Kevin Bacon game, but Mayor Luken's and Valerie Lemmie's administration have made significant changes in how things get done at City Hall.

There were days at City Hall when fixing a neighborhood problem meant calling six different departments. Buildings, Police, Public Works, Health, Fire and others are all involved in the daily problems that challenge the city's older neighborhoods. And in many cases, the departments didn't talk to one another very often.

Now, cross-functional teams are regularly working in the City Administration. Department Directors know they are only a phone call away from everyone that needs to chip in to create better communities.

Long time City Solicitor Terry Cosgrove has been leading teams that are targeting negligent property owners throughout city neighborhoods. Representatives from police, fire, health and building inspectors collaborate to find the most dangerous code violations and set deadlines for their repair. Often in the past, one agency would allot a specific time period for a repair to be completed, while another agency gave a different time line for property owners.

With this new cooperation, Code Enforcement Response Teams are able to fix significant code violations like bad electrical wiring or caving-in steps before a bigger problem arises from such unsafe situations. "These strike teams have made significant differences in the qual-

ity of life in our communities," said Cosgrove.

The "Broken Windows" theory of reducing crime and restoring neighborhood pride is at the heart of these strike teams. When a community can stand back and see their City government taking a stand against negligent property owners, pride returns to the community, and oftentimes, crime surrounding the properties drops.

The City's hotline, 591-6000, is also still available to partner with neighborhoods to fix chronic problems. As with many things, we can still do better—but the important thing is that City Hall is listening to its neighborhood leaders and responding with a new ferocity for cleaning up neighborhoods.

CINCINNATI: 100 YEARS AGO

In 1903, Cincinnati was a very different place...for this month's newsletter, here is a look at Cincinnati in 1903.

The Mayor was Julius Fleischmann, a Republican, and at age 30, the city's youngest Mayor.

The Reds completed a 74-65-2 season, having rallied from a 1-8 start to the season.

The world's first skyscraper with a reinforced concrete frame, the Ingalls building, was completed. (It is still in existence on Fourth Street.)

Cincinnati's population was 325,902, just smaller than its current size.

Light at the End of the Tunnel: College Hill Gets Marketing Study Funding for Business District

There was a day when the College Hill Business District was a vibrant center of a community.

In recent years, however, the College Hill Business District (CHBD) has suffered from a decline in businesses and visitors.

Yet there is new reason for hope in the northern Cincinnati neighborhood.

Last month, the Kroger Company donated \$20,000 to fund a market study for the struggling corner of Hamilton Avenue and North Bend Road.

That market study, to be completed with the partnership of the College Hill Urban Redevelopment Corporation and the City of Cincinnati, will help College Hill attract new tenants to their business district.

The College Hill Urban Redevelopment Corporation, sometimes referred to as CHURC, is a

group of volunteer board members and regular members whose goal is to be a part of all kinds of redevelopment in College Hill, involving themselves in projects from housing redevelopments to retail projects. Because of its importance to the College Hill Community and its high vacancy rate, CHURC has focused its efforts on the CHBD as of late.

The CHURC reviewed a proposal from Danter Co., a Columbus based company which will run the market study, on Thursday, October 9. The group has seen many presentations by other community groups who have been faced with similar issues and the CHURC feels that they are ready to take on the problem with open eyes.

The College Hill community has even gone as far as to create a vision of College Hill for the year 2008. This goal for the area describes a College Hill rich in arts and entertainment, full of specialty shops, two different kinds of grocery stores and 250 other businesses. In their vision,

the streets are all street-scaped, and there are hiking, biking and nature trails aplenty. The College Hill schools are striving to become the best schools in the region in the next five years, and residents are working to make College Hill the most coveted place to live, work, and play in all of Cincinnati.



This vision of a new College Hill is what drives its residents to work for every step that takes their community in the right direction. Hopefully, with the aid of the Kroger market study, this dream will become a reality.

CLEAN INITIATIVE UPDATE

August statistics show continued progress in reducing crime in Cincinnati. By the time that this newsletter is mailed, the September numbers will be available, so we encourage you to visit www.cincinnati-oh.gov for the newest numbers.

Overall, crime is down .2% in Cincinnati, and violent crime is down 4.8%.

District One continues its crime decline—violent crime is down

15.8%. Drug arrests are up 47% and part two crimes are down 3%.

District Two still has crime increases in the key percentage indicators. Total numbers, however, show that most of the increase is due to auto theft.

District Three remains 6.2% lower on violent crime and violent crime arrests are still up.

District Four overall crime is up slightly, but violent crime and part

two crimes are both down 6%.

District Five has large increases in arrests in all categories, but total crime has risen 9% year to date.

More specific information is available at the website.

Visibility indicators remain way up—49% on parking tickets, 47% on moving violations, and 32% on D.U.I. Arrests.

Community Response Team reports are also available online.

LIBERTY GARDEN HONORS 9/11 VICTIMS

In 2002, Keep America Beautiful asked its 500 Affiliates to plant Liberty Gardens in public spaces across the United States to honor those that died during 9/11 and in remembrance of those who have paid, and are still paying, the ultimate price to keep us free.

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is working with the Cincinnati Park Board to design and install Cincinnati's Liberty Garden on the small hillside above the Vietnam Memorial on St. James in Eden Park (corner of St. Paul and Alpine Place off of Victory Parkway). On Thursday, September 11, KCB held a Ground-breaking Ceremony to celebrate our freedoms and to honor the liberties for which so many have lived and died.



Presentations by the Color Guard of the Cincinnati Police and Cincinnati Fire Departments began the event, and Mayor Luken and representatives of the police and fire departments commemorated American heroes. KCB and the Cincinnati Park Board discussed the Liberty Garden that has been designed for this spot as a gift to the city.

Elements of the Liberty Garden include a seating area called "Liberty Commons," tributes to FDR's Four Freedoms, Liberty Trees, and pathways representing our past, present and future pursuit of freedom. The garden design has been donated by Human Nature, Inc. and Kolar Design, and will take 12-24 months to



install.

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is now in the process of searching for groups and individuals to sponsor various elements of the garden. Several groups, such as the Procter & Gamble Foundation, have already come on board with the project. The Foundation is providing funds to purchase the thirteen Liberty Trees (representing our thirteen colonies) that will line the winding pathway. Third grade students from the Greater Cincinnati area will plant the trees, providing them with a tangible supplement to their school curriculum.

KCB is confident that over a two year period they will be able to finish the project, providing Cincinnati with a fitting Memorial to both the victims of 9/11

and to all those who have been a part of keeping us free.



PUBLIC HEARINGS: PLEASE ATTEND



The Cincinnati Electoral Reform Commission has begun its work and will be holding 3 public hearings beginning this month.

The public hearings will focus on the following questions:

- Should some or all Council members be elected by districts, rather than at large?
- Where should district lines be drawn?
- Should a proportional representa-

tion system for council be used?

- Should Cincinnati have a strong Mayor with full executive powers?
- Should there be a City Manager?
- Should Council terms be two years?

The Commission welcomes public input and comment at the hearings. A report will be forwarded to Council with recommendations based on expert views and public opinion.

All times are 6-8 p.m., dates are as

follows:

- 10/16/03 @ Jordan's Crossing, Allen Temple Worship Center at the corner of Reading and Seymour Avenue
- 10/23/03 @ Dunham Recreation Center in Westwood
- 11/13/03 @ Oakley Community Center in Hyde Park Plaza

We hope you can make it to one of the hearings. Written testimonies are also accepted.

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DELIVER TO:

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Cincinnati:

The American city should be a collection of communities where every member has a right to belong. It should be a place where every man feels safe on his streets and in the house of his friends. It should be a place where each individual's dignity and self-respect is strengthened by the respect and affection of his neighbors. It should be a place where each of us can find the satisfaction and warmth which comes from being a member of the community of man. This is what man sought at the dawn of civilization. It is what we seek today.
--Lyndon B. Johnson

That quote accurately describes what we are trying to accomplish in Cincinnati—a community that welcomes everyone, where people are safe in their own neighborhoods, and

where people feel empowered to be a part of their society.

We are getting to be more like that place. Neighborhood leaders such as yourself are making that happen. You are working for more development and progress; you are working with your police department to solve crimes and reduce the violence, and you are taking active roles in the future of your surroundings.

We are fortunate to have people in Cincinnati who share that vision for our future. Each day, I am reminded of your work through the many phone calls and emails I get about what is happening in the neighborhoods. I hope you continue to stay in contact with me through those channels and let me know about your successes and challenges.

I'm hopeful that increased

participation in city government and affairs can lead to a better, more sustainable community. Almost a year ago, I promised to keep in more frequent contact with neighborhoods through this newsletter. I've been trying to stress both what the City is doing right, and where we need to improve.

I hope you are finding this newsletter interesting and valuable. As always, I welcome your suggestions.

Sincerely,
Charlie Luken
Mayor, City of Cincinnati

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